7/8/70

Dear Gris,

If a priest hadn't spent most of the day here, I might have had more time for response to you undated letter, which arrived today.

I know I still have a copy of the first part of COUP. I may have both. I'll try and get it/them wrapped and in the mail in the a.m. I have to leave for town in a few moments, so I won't have time to even check now. Remember, they/it will go fourth class, which costs little but takes much longer.

I think there is a simpler explanation on Warren. I doubt if any can or will satisfy any of us, but I'm inclined to take a much less conspiratorial view. He was boxed in by the staff and they by the FBI. All should have known better and undoubtedly some (esp. Rankin, Redlich, Specter, Liebeler and others) fit your father's story. He and his activity and decisions, bad as they were, have still been exaggerated and misrepresented. For example, he directed Rankin to have a member and a doctor examine some of the autopsy pix, and Rankin arranged that it not be done. And the X-rays <u>were</u> examined, in spite of everything we have been told.

Where I know the civil-rights thing did figure is with Russell, who devoutly believes LBJ appointed him tox the Commission to keep him out of the anti-civil-rights fight. Russell thereupon ignored his Commission assignment and led the resistance. I think this is tragic for all of us and cannot now tell you why, but his questioning of Marine 9/6/64, which I go into in some detail in WW, is one indication. He was and remains convinced there was a conspiracy, despite what the Report says. He happens to think it was Red and LHO was part of it, but the fact remains he was in this fundamental disagreement with the Report. I think he was not alone. There are those in Dallas with pretty much the same view, to my knowledge.

It is possible to give LBJ too little credit for the wisdom with which hex selected his Commission and the brutality with which he over-rode their refusals, including Warren's initial one. With Russell, he just went ahead and announced it after Russell had refused and was under the impression it ended with his refusal....And we now know that despite the Report and his own many later public statements, LBJ also didn't believe his own Commission.

Sorry about the haste. Best to you all.

Sincerely,